

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 2, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 2, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-9 and 28-36 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 10-27 have been canceled by Applicants. Claims 1-9 and 28-36 are subject to restriction.

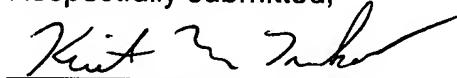
Restriction to one of the following groups is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to an electrochemical plating apparatus with a check valve in a fluid supply line and a bleed line, classified in class 204, subclass 275.1.
- II. Claims 28-36, drawn to an electrochemical plating apparatus with an anode and a bleed line positioned above the anode, classified in class 204, subclass 228.1.

Applicants elect Group II, claims 28-36, with traverse. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 31 should not be restricted, as they recite substantially similar limitations and describe the same invention. Thus, Applicants submit that Groups I and II should not be restricted. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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